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2.C Recreation

This chapter sub-section of the Plan addresses State of Wisconsin statutory requirements for the utilities and community facilities, cultural resources, and implementation elements of a comprehensive plan.



Recreation

This section includes:

1. Recreation Data

- **Hard Data:** What is the current and future state of recreation in the City?
- **Community Input:** What are people saying about recreation in the City?
- **City Plans and Policies:** What existing plans and policies impact recreation in the City?

2. **Recreation Themes:** How does the data inform the City’s recreation goals?

3. **Recreation Policy Framework:** What are the City’s recreation goals and how will they be achieved?

Definitions

Path: A paved, off-road transportation route designed for pedestrians and bicyclists, owned and managed by the City

Trail: A paved, off-road transportation route designed for pedestrians and bicyclists, owned and managed by an entity other than the City

Recreation Data

Recreation data presented includes:

1. **Hard Data:** Map and inventory of the following recreation areas, facilities, services, and events:

- **Recreation by the Numbers:** Various characteristics related to City’s recreation system
- **Recreation Map:** Parks, paths, trails, community facilities, cultural resources, and entertainment districts
- **Entertainment Districts:** West Fitchburg- Orchard Pointe District, North Fish Hatchery, West Fitchburg-McKee Road, and Fitchburg Center

2. **Community Input:** Summary of recreation input gathered from City residents via a public opinion survey and public meetings, as well as input from various City committees

3. **City Plans and Policies:** Inventory of existing City plans and policies (including ordinances and committees) that impact recreation in the City

Hard Data

Recreation by the Numbers

Parks and Recreation Land and Facilities

410

acres of City land

124

acres of Community Parks (Whole City service radius)

72

acres of Area Parks (1/2 mile service radius)

145

acres of Neighborhood Parks (1/4 mile service radius)

38

acres of Natural Areas

31

acre 9-Hole Golf Course

1,259

acres of County, State, and Federal land

554

acres of County land

482

acres of State land

223

acres of Federal land

1

Library and Senior Center

Trails

90

miles of bike trails, paths, and routes

Recreational Programming and Services

200+

City recreational programs

3,400

participants of all ages

Cultural Resources

5

buildings listed on the national Register of Historic Places

6

one-room school houses

11

local landmarks

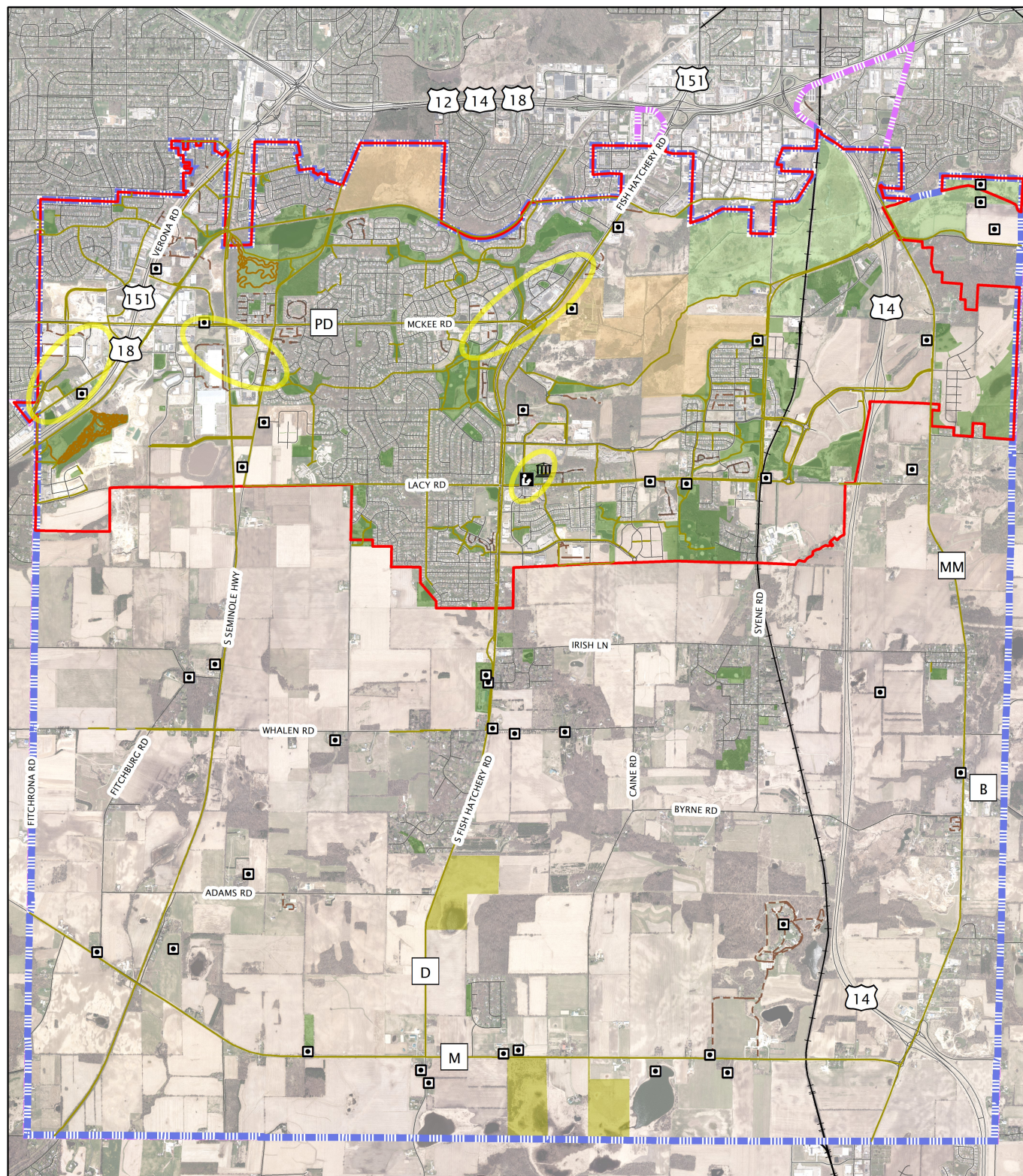
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


historic buildings





Annual prominent recreational events in the City include Festa Italia, Concerts at McKee, and Pack 'n the Park, all at McKee Farms Park.

A year-round farmers market is hosted on Research Park Drive in the summer months and in the City's Community Center during winter months.

Map 2.C.1: Recreation



-  Major Bike Trails and Paths
-  Mountain Bike Trails
- Park/Outdoor Recreation Land**
 -  City
 -  County
 -  State
 -  Federal
-  Entertainment Districts
-  City Library
-  City Community/Senior Center
-  Historical Site, Landmark, or Building

 City Boundary
 Town of Madison (Annexed to City by 2022)
 Urban Service Area
 Roads
 Private Roads
 Rail

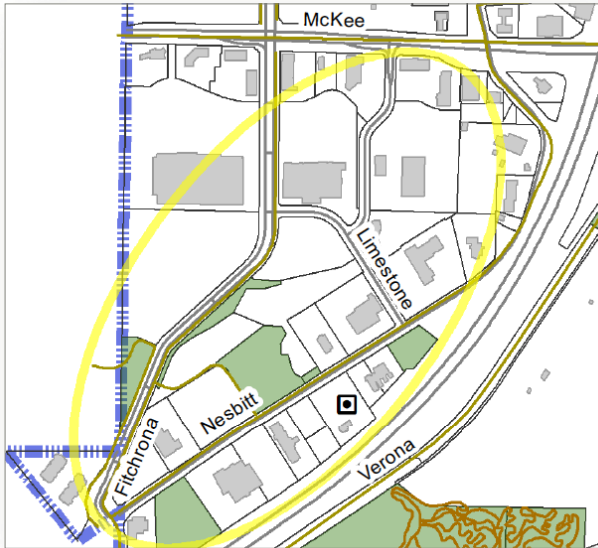
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Source: City of Fitchburg, Dane County LIO, WDNR

Entertainment Districts

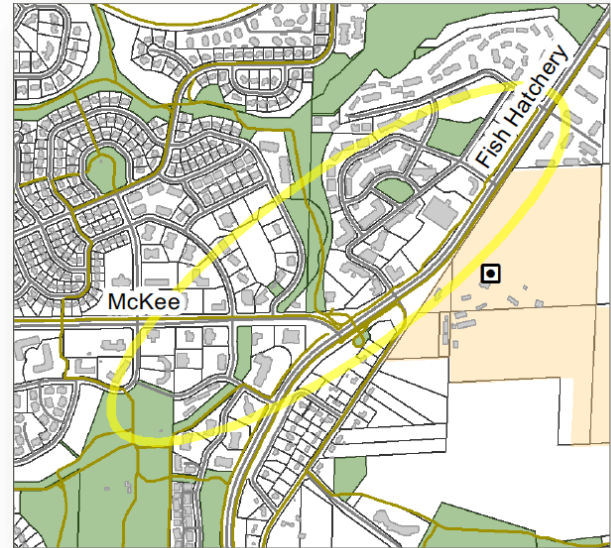
The following identifies various entertainment districts in the City, as well as recreational amenities in these districts (see Map 2.C.1 for further detail):

West Fitchburg- Orchard Pointe District



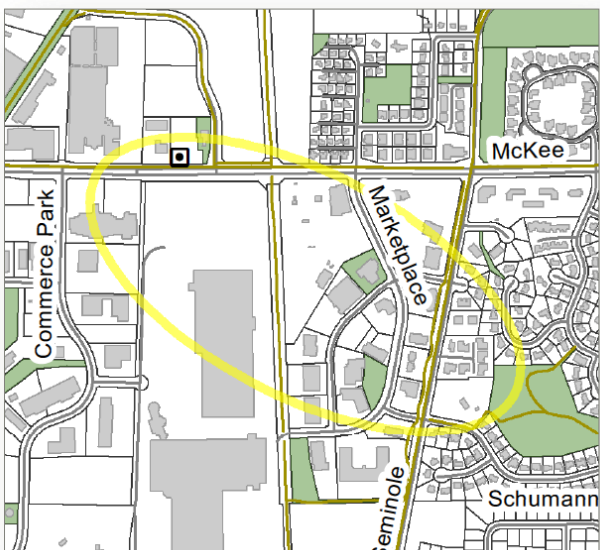
Eat, drink, and shop, hop on a mountain bike trail, or check out a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

North Fish Hatchery District



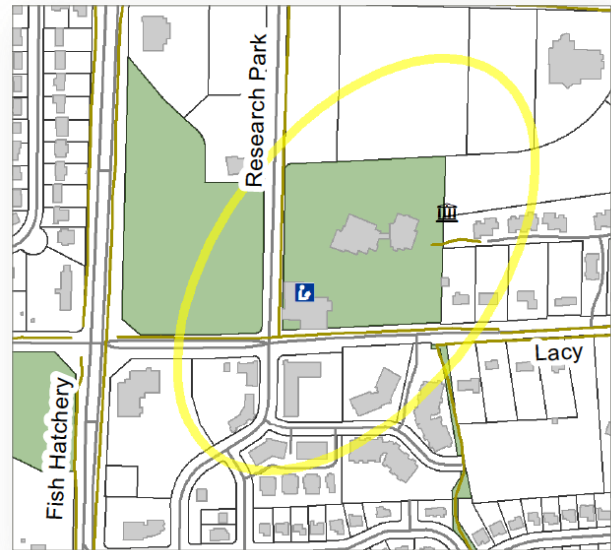
Eat, drink, and shop, or visit McKee Farms where Festa Italia is hosted every year in early summer.

West Fitchburg-McKee Road District



Eat, drink, and shop, or head out to the movies.

Fitchburg Center District



Eat and drink, stop by the library or community center, or check out the weekly farmers market located just down the street.

Community Input

The following summarizes recreation input gathered from the community, including City residents and committees, via a public opinion survey and public meetings:

- Parks/open space, trails/paths, and library are high-quality amenities and City “assets”
- Neighborhood centers/gathering places and other large-scale recreational and community amenities needed (i.e. pool, public art, etc.)
- More “entertainment” options needed (i.e. restaurants, shopping, etc.)

City Plan & Policies

The following identifies various existing City plans and policies (including ordinances and committees) that impact recreation in the City:

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Plan (Adopted: 2016)
Library Strategic Plan (Adopted: 2019)
Senior Center Plan for Growth (Adopted: 2018)
Land Division Ordinance (Chapter 24)
Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 29)
Parks Commission
Commission on Aging Well
Library Board
Landmarks Preservation Committee

Recreation Themes

The following identifies common recreation themes as gleaned from analysis of the various recreation data pieces, including hard data, City resident and Committee feedback, and existing relevant City plans and policies.

Districts & Nodes

The City should continue to utilize a strategic, unified approach to develop and market/brand the various districts, or nodes, in the City.

Park Impact Fees

The City should work with all relevant parties, including the Park Commission, Housing Committee, Plan Commission, residents, developers, and relevant staff to analyze and propose modifications to the City's park impact fees structure that meet the goals of all of the aforementioned parties.

Identity and Revenue

The City should continue to work to maintain and enhance its parks/paths/trails, including marketing and branding thereof, as these amenities offer various opportunities to create identity and economic development opportunities.

Connectivity and Navigability

The City should continue to work to ensure its trails and paths are integrated and intuitively orientated, to ensure maximum use and ease in navigating.

Themes/Signature Parks

The City should continue to recognize the unique attributes of specific properties within its park system, and develop and manage these properties in a manner that addresses "niche" recreation uses and emerging social/recreation trends and demand.

Ecosystems

The City should continue to develop and manage its park system, including landscaping and stormwater management, in a manner that protects and enhances the natural environment.

Recreation Themes

Community Building

The City should continue to explore opportunities to develop and manage facilities that provide residents a physical space to socialize and gather in close proximity to where they live.

Funding

The City should utilize various revenue streams, both internal and external, to maintain existing and develop new recreation opportunities in the City.

Partnerships

The City should work collaboratively with its residents/businesses, other governmental units, and the private development sector to maintain existing and develop new recreation opportunities in the City.

Affordability

The City should strive to provide recreational opportunities that are easily accessible and affordable to residents, particularly in areas identified in the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative.

Recreation Policy Framework

The following identifies a policy framework for Growing Fitchburg's Recreation from 2020 to 2030, including the following:

1. Growth Principles
2. Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Growth Principles



Sustainable



Vibrant



Equitable



Cooperative

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Goal 1: Improve the City's park and open space system by enhancing outdoor recreation, enhancing natural resources, and practicing ecological stewardship.

Objective 1.1: Plan, acquire, and develop additional parks to help meet the outdoor recreation needs of the City's population and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy 1.1.1: Identify park classification needs during the neighborhood planning process to ensure that the City plans and acquires sites with proper location and size.

Policy 1.1.2: Continue to meet City resident needs based on the hierarchy of parks outlined in the City's Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Policy 1.1.3: Identify and develop Community Park sites to serve the west side of the City.

Policy 1.1.4: Continue the requirement of dedication of park land or park fees.

Policy 1.1.5: Consider an update to the City's park dedication requirements to provide appropriate small parks and contributions to regional park facilities for urban neighborhoods.

Policy 1.1.6: Consider an update to the park dedication requirement that recognizes the contribution of larger environmental corridors to the total open space provided, and create a management plan that lists potential recreational uses within the larger environmental corridors, provided it is not contrary to resource protection measures or other relevant recommendations of a neighborhood plan or special study.

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Objective 1.2: Continue the process of improvements to existing parks in order to meet current recreational needs.

Policy 1.2.1: Maintain an inventory of existing parks and develop a routine facilities maintenance schedule.

Policy 1.2.2: Encourage the planting and maintenance of trees and the management of invasive species within the park and open space system in order to ensure the health of the City's urban forest.

Policy 1.2.3: Recognize that as demographics and social characteristics of current park uses change that the type and level of necessary park facilities may also change.

Objective 1.3.: Plan and design parks and open space to sustain environmentally sensitive features and reduce negative environmental effects.

Policy 1.3.1: Ensure that the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the City are preserved and enhanced, and explore opportunities for public art and other prominent recreational amenities.

Policy 1.3.2: Preserve and maintain selected wooded areas, vegetative cover, streams, ponds, natural drainage ways, and other natural resources in and around the City.

Policy 1.3.3: Develop and maintain programs to control detrimental and encourage beneficial insects and other wildlife.

Policy 1.3.4: Maintain or improve the quality of water resources in the City.

Policy 1.3.5: Adopt a long-term Parks and Open Space Proposal for future parks/recreation facilities and protected open space.

Objective 1.4: Connect linear parks and paths for walking and bicycling between neighborhoods and districts, and to connect environmental corridors and provide for wildlife movement.

Policy 1.4.1: Use resource-based open space planning to encourage connectivity and environmental protection and enhancement.

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Policy 1.4.2: Work in accord with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in planning for linear parks and paths.

Objective 1.5: Examine the creation of a central park and open space system.

Policy 1.5.1: Integrate environmentally sensitive areas, active recreation, and resource protection into a parks and open space network.

Policy 1.5.2: Encourage the refinement of a central park and open space proposal in the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Goal 2: Continue to maintain and enhance the City's library and Senior Center to meet the needs of the City's population.

Objective 2.1: Work to meet the library service needs of the City's residents.

Policy 2.1.1: Work with the Library Board to meet the library service needs of City's residents.

Policy 2.1.2: Work with the South Central Library System on promotion of area libraries and bookmobile service.

Objective 2.2: Provide and maintain facilities and services to support the City's senior residents.

Policy 2.2.1: Work with the Commission on Aging Well to meet the service needs of the City's senior residents.

Policy 2.2.2: Provide facilities and services with the intention of promoting and maintaining a reasonable independent quality of life for the City's senior residents.

Goal 3: Promote and preserve the City's cultural resource base.

Objective 3.1: Encourage the preservation of significant natural, cultural, and historical features.

Policy 3.1.1: Maintain and update, where and when appropriate, the inventory of cultural resources within the City.

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Policy 3.1.2: Encourage the preservation of significant cultural, historical, and natural features in development proposals. (Where preservation of such features is not practical, the City encourages the integration of such features into the design of projects to the extent practical.)

Policy 3.1.3: Examine funding opportunities to undertake comprehensive historic and cultural resource inventory.

Policy 3.1.4: Utilize state and federal programs or grants when available and appropriate to educate, enhance and protect historical properties.

Objective 3.2: Encourage compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental, cultural resource, and historical preservation laws and ordinances.

Policy 3.2.1: Continue to use the Historic Landmark Preservation Ordinance to designate locally significant historical buildings and sites.

Policy 3.2.2: Encourage applicants who must obtain permits pursuant to federal, state, and local environmental, cultural resource, and historical preservation laws and ordinances to share with the City such permits and related background information at the time of application submittal.

Policy 3.2.3: Maintain contact with the local and/or state historical society representatives to better understand available programs and resources.

Policy 3.2.4: Work with local, regional, and state tourism promotional groups such as the State Heritage Tourism Council and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism to promote and protect local cultural resources.

Goal 4: Actively seek to strengthen strong cultural and social history and community identity.

Objective 4.1: Retain, enhance, and promote the inviting atmosphere of the City.

Policy 4.1.1: Encourage the development of unique City themes.

Policy 4.1.2: Encourage social activities and gatherings, and other local events that strengthen local traditions.

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

Policy 4.1.3: Use the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Land Division Ordinance as tools to encourage locally appropriate development and to maintain the integrity of undeveloped open space and agricultural areas.

Policy 4.1.4: Prepare and distribute educational material regarding the City's unique historic sites to encourage their protection.

Policy 4.1.5: Recognize the value of existing rural sub-divisions or enclaves, with these enclaves integrated, where possible, with new sub-divisions.

Policy 4.1.6: Continue to value the City's ethnic diversity by actively seeking to involve all groups in activities and governance.